

INTENT TO APPLY FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL ACCREDITATION

In approving a district application of intent to transition to meet accreditation Rule 10.55.902 (3) and the subsequent application for approval for accreditation as a middle school, the Office of Public Instruction (OPI), will use as a guide the following process:

1. Application of intent to transition to middle school must be received by the Office of Public Instruction, Division of Accreditation and Educator Preparation (AEP), by **March 1**.
2. Application of intent to transition Approval must be granted prior to transitioning to the middle school program.
3. In order to be approved to transition to the middle school accreditation status, the application must include a description of the detailed process and activities, including professional development that the district will follow in order to develop and implement a Middle school program including:
 - a. Philosophy (ARM 10.55.902(2)) and (ARM 10.55.902(3)(a)(i-iii)), and
 - b. Education program aligned to the requirements of ARM10.55.902 (3)(a-f).

To document the planned transition and alignment to the standard, use the "Middle School Program Checklist" enclosed in this appendix (available as a Word document for local use on the OPI AEP web page).

4. Application materials will be reviewed by the OPI and a recommendation will be made to the district.
5. A chairperson will be assigned from the OPI to work with the district throughout the year(s) to provide assistance to help the school district personnel develop a middle school program that will meet all the requirements of ARM 10.55.902 (3).
6. Initial on-site visitation by a review team identified by the OPI will be established with the school district.

APPLICATION FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL ACCREDITATION APPROVAL

In approving a district application for middle school accreditation under ARM 10.55.902 (3), OPI, will use as a guide the following process:

1. Application from the school district for the school to be accredited as a middle school must be received by the OPI Division of Accreditation and Educator Preparation (AEP), by **March 1**.
2. Application includes the "Middle School Program Checklist" (enclosed in the appendix and available as a Word document for local use) completed by the district to document the transition and alignment to the standard and serve as a guide for the on-site visitation team.
3. On-site visitation by a review team identified by the OPI will be established with the school district.
4. The OPI and the school district personnel will present their overviews of the middle school program to the Board of Public Education at the scheduled April/May meeting following the initial approval.
5. Following the April/May meeting of the Board of Public Education, the OPI will notify school districts of the recommendation of initial approval, initial approval with recommendations or full approval of official middle school accreditation status.